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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING
OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 9 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the Libreville Declaration on the situation in Zaire (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 81, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Denis DANGUE RÉWAKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Libreville Declaration

At the request of His Excellency Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, President of the Republic of Zaire, and at the invitation of His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic, an extraordinary summit meeting of the Central African Heads of State was held on 8 May 1997 in Libreville.

The following dignitaries took part in this summit meeting:

- Mr. Mobutu Sese Seko, President of the Republic of Zaire;
- El Hadj Omar Bongo, President of the Gabonese Republic;
- Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea;
- Mr. Idriss Deby, President of the Republic of Chad;
- Mr. Pascal Lissouba, President of the Republic of the Congo;
- Mr. Ange-Félix Patassé, President of the Central African Republic;
- Mr. Ferdinand Léopold Oyono, Minister for Foreign Affairs, representing President Paul Biya of the Republic of Cameroon, current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

The Central African Heads of State considered developments in the crisis in Zaire in the light of the conclusions of the meeting held on 4 May 1997 in Pointe Noire between President Mobutu and Mr. Laurent Désiré Kabila, under the auspices of Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, and Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun, the joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity Special Representative for the Great Lakes region.

President Mobutu presented the Central African Heads of State with an exhaustive historical account of the crisis in Zaire.

Following a thorough exchange of views, the Heads of State reaffirm their firm attachment to a negotiated political solution to the conflict and reject all recourse to violence as a means of settling disputes, and they recall the principles of OAU, in particular resolution 16 of July 1964, adopted in Cairo, on the territorial integrity of States and the inviolability of the borders inherited from the colonial period.

Consequently, the Heads of State reaffirm their adherence to the peace plan of the United Nations and OAU as set forth in United Nations Security Council resolution 1097 (1997) of 18 February 1997.

The Heads of State urgently call on the two parties to respect the commitments freely entered into under the terms of the final communiqué of the

extraordinary summit meeting of OAU held in Lomé on 27 March 1997 and the Pretoria communiqué of 8 April 1997.

The Central African Heads of State have taken note of President Mobutu Sese Seko's important statement that, for health reasons, he would not stand for re-election, thus opening up new prospects for a negotiated political settlement of the dispute. They take this opportunity to reaffirm their attachment to the democratic process of institution-building.

The Heads of State urgently call on the Zairian political forces, under the direction of the High Council of the Republic-Transitional Parliament, to proceed to the election of their President so as to allow for the normal functioning of institutions and to promote an orderly and democratic transition in accordance with the Constitutional Act of Transition.

In the light of the Zairian crisis, and in order to strengthen security, peace and stability in Central Africa, the Heads of State have decided to establish a structure for consensus-building and crisis management in Central Africa, the organization of which shall be decided by the Heads of State.

The Heads of State have also decided to undertake missions of mediation and peace to the Heads of State of the countries concerned with the conflict in Zaire.

Lastly, the Heads of State make a strong appeal to the parties to the dispute to cease hostilities immediately in order to create the conditions for a negotiated political settlement of the crisis in Zaire.

Done at Libreville on 8 May 1997.

(Signed) MOBUTU SESE SEKO

(Signed) Omar BONGO

(Signed) OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO

(Signed) Idriss DEBY

(Signed) Pascal LISSOUBA

(Signed) Ange Félix PATASSE

(Signed) Ferdinand Léopold OYONO